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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 20, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Scott Rambo, First Baptist Church, Sugar Land, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray together. Father, we come before You this morning, thanking You so much for all the blessings that You give us in life. I thank You for the privilege of being an American citizen and for the honor of being able to pray for the men and women who lead our country. I pray Your blessings and Your wisdom upon them as they lead us.

Father, as I reflect on the images of the great lawgivers whose faces are all around the walls of this Chamber, Father, my attention is focused on Moses, the only lawgiver whose full face is shown. Father, when I think about that and know that his full face is shown because he is the only lawgiver who received his law directly from You and not from man, I am reminded that our ultimate authority for all of life is You.

Lord, I pray Your success formula for our Nation today. Father, You tell us in Your word that if we will humble ourselves and pray and seek Your face and turn from our wicked ways, then You will hear our prayers, You will for-

give our sins, and You will heal our land.

Father, I ask that You help us to humble ourselves before You and turn from any wickedness that may be in our lives. Father, I pray as we do that, You will hear our prayers and heal our land. Grant us the strength and courage to follow You every day.

Again, I thank You so much for the blessings and the grace and mercy that You give us every day. I pray Your blessings on this day and all that takes place in this House. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3301. An act to amend chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of the Treasury greater discretion with regard to the placement of the required inscriptions on quarter dollars issued under the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive 15 1-minutes on each side, following the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

REVEREND SCOTT RAMBO

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, our opening prayer this morning was offered by my good friend and pastor of my church, Reverend Scott Rambo.

Reverend Rambo has ministered to the spiritual needs of many of my constituents since 1995, when he became the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sugar Land, Texas.

Since becoming pastor of the first Baptist Church, Reverend Rambo has brought excitement and a sense of mission to our community. His message of faith and family has inspired many, as witnessed by the astronomic growth of the First Baptist Church of Sugar Land.

Reverend Rambo is a graduate of the University of South Alabama and of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He started his career as the Minister of Evangelism at the Retta Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas. He became the youth minister at the Hillcrest Park Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, then moved to Dallas to take the job of Associate Youth Minister at the First Baptist Church of Dallas.

He then left Texas for 3 years, serving as the Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana. But, like all Texans, he could not leave Texas, he had to come home, so he returned back to Texas and started his current ministry in Sugar Land, Texas.

Reverend Rambo, in my opinion, is a man that truly has a heart and a love

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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for the Lord, and I want to thank Reverend Rambo for his inspirational words today and thank him for the inspirational work that he does in Sugar Land, Texas.

So I want to welcome him to the House, and thank him for all his good work.

NATIONAL SECURITY TOO IMPORTANT TO BE AUCTIONED OFF TO HIGHEST BIDDER

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Americans awoke this morning with a number of new questions on their minds, beginning with why would the Clinton administration switch the responsibility for satellites from the Department of State to the Commerce Department?

Both the State Department and Defense Department were against this move. They knew these communication satellites were one of America's most sensitive military and intelligence gathering technologies. Even the former Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, wrote to the President that these sophisticated communication satellites held technology secrets that could jeopardize, and I quote, "significant military and intelligence interests of America."

Was Secretary Christopher reluctant because he understood the importance of the built-in encryption equipment that interprets the ground controller's instructions; or was it because he knew that similar encryption systems were used to communicate with America's spy satellites?

Did the Commerce Department in any way understand that anyone who could crack these codes could take control of these satellites themselves? Did anyone care? Was there some other issue driving this change?

America deserves to know the answers to these questions, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPORT H.R. 692 TO APPOINT INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE GOVERNMENT WRONGDOING

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Federal agents killed his dog, they killed his 14-year-old son, and they killed his wife. Federal agents said they did not like his politics.

Randy Weaver is a white separatist. My colleagues do not like his politics, I do not like Weaver's politics either, but that is no reason for the government to gun down his family.

Let me tell my colleagues something. This does not sound like the FBI of Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. This sounds like the KGB of Joseph Stalin.

To make matters worse, a Federal judge dropped all charges against the

FBI agent who shot Vicky Weaver right between the eyes while clutching her infant son. Shame, my colleagues. Congress, the Justice Department investigates themselves and then they cover their assets every time.

We are a bunch of fools. It is time to put our government in order. Support H.R. 692 and put an independent counsel on these types of cases. Shame, Congress. No American family should be gunned down.

SUPPORT H.R. 2183, FRESHMEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has spent millions of dollars to investigate soft money abuses, but there are many Members in this Chamber who will rail against certain big money contributions and then vote against campaign finance reform.

The freshmen took a different tact. We put together a bill that would ban soft money, improve candidate reporting and require some disclosure of the outside group advertising. H.R. 2183 closes the soft money loophole, it gets elected officials, candidates, and party officials out of the business of raising money from corporations and unions and the wealthiest contributors.

Later this week the long delayed debate on real campaign finance reform will begin. Now we must watch out for poison pills and red herrings. Poison pills are amendments that sound great but are designed to kill campaign finance reform; and red herrings are arguments about suppression of free speech that are designed for simply the same purpose.

Support the freshmen bill, support campaign finance reform, let us get on with the business of reforming our campaign finance system.

NATIONAL SECURITY IS MOST IMPORTANT IN INVESTIGATING MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO CHINA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure my Democrat colleagues will exhibit the same zeal and passion to get to the truth about the allegations of missile technology to Communist China as they are about finding answers to the question of who hired Craig Livingstone, or about how the White House ended up with 900 FBI files on Republicans, or about 92 witnesses that have either fled the country or taken the Fifth Amendment to avoid testifying, and about why Mrs. Hubbell is afraid, very afraid, of losing her job if Webster Hubbell cooperates with Judge Starr.

If the past is any guide, I am sure the Democrats will leave no stone

turned in seeking the truth about these stunning revelations about illegal campaign contributions in return for missile technology to Communist China.

That said, I urge my colleagues to investigate this matter with their minds focused on one thing and one thing only: National security. National security is not a partisan issue. It is about protecting our values and our way of life from those whose entire political system is hostile to our belief in freedom, the rule of law, individual rights, and the right to worship God as we see fit.

HOUSE SHOULD MAKE DECISION ON DRUG TESTING OF DOD EMPLOYEES

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, our Nation this year is going to spend \$18 billion on the war on drugs. As we speak, there are Americans flying counter drug missions in places like Colombia and Peru, and they are being shot at, and pretty often they get killed.

Mr. Speaker, imagine my surprise then when, just yesterday in the Committee on Rules, an amendment to require all Department of Defense employees to be drug tested was voted down along straight party lines. Every single Republican voted against requiring our Department of Defense employees to be drug tested. I think that is a decision the full House should make.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to tell my colleagues that if they had plans for this weekend, they should cancel them, because I am going to keep us here until we have a vote on that amendment.

I want to tell the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) that we can have a half-hour of debate on that issue and an up or down vote, or we can spend a Memorial Day weekend here in Washington.

SHOCKING REVELATION THAT WHITE HOUSE IS HELPING COMMUNIST CHINA WITH ITS MISSILE PROGRAM

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, of all the scandals coming out of the White House, this scandal is perhaps the most disturbing of all. I am talking about the shocking revelation that the White House is helping the Communist government develop its missile system.

Do we, as a nation, understand that what we are doing is sending them the technology to allow them to aim missiles at the United States of America, while when we here in our Nation do not even have the ability to shoot